

Minutes of the Commission Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held December 16, 2015 at the Courthouse Building, Price, Utah, commencing at 4:30 p.m.

Those present: Jake Mellor, Commission Chair  
Jae Potter, Commissioner  
Casey Hopes, Commissioner

Also present: Seth Oveson, Clerk/Auditor  
Sandy Lehman, Commission Secretary  
Jeff Wood, Sheriff  
Christian Bryner, Attorney  
Rose Barnes, HR

Clerk's Certificate of Compliance with Open Meeting Law was filed.

Commissioner Mellor welcomed everyone and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting began at 4:31 p.m.

**1) Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Potter made a motion to approve the December 2, 2015 Commission Meeting with grammatical corrections. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

Christian made clerical corrections to the November 18, 2015 Commission Meeting minutes. Concerning a correction in the middle of page 6, Christian stated that the letters were not read into the minutes but only the names of those who had submitted the letters were read. Commissioner Hopes made a correction on page 4, paragraph 4, changing the word "head cap" to "head cut". Commissioner Hopes made a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections and changes, Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

**2) Introduction of new Miss Carbon County and request for 2016 contribution.**

The new Miss Carbon County, Aajah Breinholt, introduced herself. Her service platform is the Boys and Girls Club of America and she will work to make the activities available to more youth. She has been interviewed on the radio, attended the Miss Utah Workshop, and participated in ribbon cuttings, the Helper Light Parade and singing carols at our local nursing homes. In the past the Commission has contributed \$1,000 to the Miss Utah Organization, she thanked the Commission for the support.

Miss Carbon County asked the Commission to remember the organization in the 2016 budget and possibly supply more funds to cover the invoice from the Miss Utah Organization since there has been an increase. She discussed the various costs in detail.

Commissioner Potter said a budget hearing will be held at the end of this meeting and this item will be discussed. Commissioner Potter asked if she is asking for \$2,055. Miss Carbon County director Kristina Hunsaker explained the required items need funding by March. The increase is to cover added items like videographer, photographer, and production outfits; the license fee is the same. The annual cost is usually \$1,600 and the Little Miss cost is included.

Aajah was thanked for her efforts.

**3) Discussion concerning proposed sale of radio licenses.**

Christian explained that a motion was passed to sell these licenses to KOAL and KUSA. Christian is just about finished with the contract to complete the sale and needs to review it with the Commissioners and the parties involved. The Commission could take public comment or can discuss it amongst themselves. As far as Christian is aware the sale still stands and the contract is ready to finalize.

Commissioner Hopes asked if the FCC was going to approve the sale of the license. Christian said the FCC will not be notified until our contract is complete and signed off. At that point it will be submitted to the FCC to ask them to start the license approval process to transfer to those radio stations.

Commissioner Mellor invited the public for comment. Jim Piacitelli discussed concerns with the history of this proposal with the Commissioners and the lack of advertising. Commissioner Hopes explained that not everyone can buy a radio license and that the FCC has strict guidelines. Because these two stations operate in the area they were the only two companies that could have bought the radio stations. Commissioner Potter said there have been

two public meetings where this has been on the County Commission agenda and the public was notified. Christian said the agenda is published online, in the newspaper, all radio stations and other outlets.

Jim then posed the following questions: He asked for the current status of the proposed sale. Christian said the papers are being finalized, the Commissioners still need to review them and he has not yet contacted the FCC. Once the draft is approved then it will be submitted to the radio stations' owners for review and then the FCC will be approached.

Jim's next question was how have the needs and benefits of the 20,000+ citizens of Carbon County and neighboring counties regarding the sale been assessed versus the perceived benefit of the two existing local stations? Commissioner Mellor said that Carbon County doesn't have any business running the translators and it is more a radio station type of business. There was once a time and a need for the County to take these on and now that need is no longer present. This is an asset the County currently owns and is managing that could probably be better managed by the radio stations who all have been involved in the discussion.

Commissioner Potter said that the thing that came from their discussions is in the case of emergencies. The FM transmitters provide better coverage, especially in the evening hours when the signals weaken. It will improve public safety which is a County concern. There are a total of five translators owned by the County and the sale only involves two. The other three carry Salt Lake stations into our area.

Jim clarified that the County is not selling the translators just the licensing. Jim asked if other counties in the State have made similar decisions or are in the process of doing so. Commissioner Mellor said a lot of counties do not manage or operate translators.

Jim asked why has the proposed pending sale moved forward when the previous Commissioners rejected the sale. What has changed besides the Commissioners? Commissioner Potter was not aware of any past discussion. Commissioner Hopes said things change all the time. Jim said the same sale was presented earlier and rejected by previous Commissioners. Commissioner Potter asked for a time frame. Jim said it was when Commissioner Krompel and Commissioner Milovich were the Commissioners. Commissioner Potter said the request was to be able to put the AM signal over FM stations and five years ago the Commission did allow for two stations to use the FM signal. That is his only recollection of a change. At that point in time it was not a sale of the license but an agreement to allow them to use two of the translators for their own businesses.

Commissioner Hopes said one of the benefits of the sale is allowing the radio stations to improve their signal and with that approval they will have to mitigate any problems that would cost the County. It does allow the stations to progress and offer a better service to their customers. If the County owns the translator licenses the radio stations must rely on the County for improvements and maintenance. The radio stations do not want to improve someone else's equipment.

Jim asked why has there not been public notice given regarding the proposed sale with the intended opportunity for public input, etc., and for the open bidding of the purchase of the licenses? Commissioner Potter said this has already been answered. It was published and these are the only two stations that could buy the translators and because of that each of them agreed that they would purchase one.

Jim said he is asking this because if the County sells anything of value it needs to be published. Commissioner Potter said in this case you would have to be a radio station operator in order to purchase.

Commissioner Mellor explained that a very limited audience could participate in this type of purchase. All parties relevant were considered and were part of the proceeding. Christian said the County ordinance does not require that everything go out to auction. If there is only one possible buyer then it is not required to go out on bid.

Jim said he objects to the sale because it further restricts the vital resource that should be maintained for all citizens in the County and broadcast area. This license cannot be easily replaced like a dump truck. This is a valued asset and the license value is much greater than the proposed purchase price. He said there has not been a public hearing nor open bidding which he feels there are legal and technical implications and seems to be improper and unethical because there may be other parties interested. It also sets a dangerous precedence for future related actions by the Commission. In contrast, the County ownership insures that our citizens have a broader selection of stations that appeal to a wide variety of tastes. In summary, the sale of these licenses would be giving up a highly valued resource that everyone uses and once given up will never be reclaimed. The sale is a dangerous step and he feels it should be withdrawn. If the Commission proceeds he requests that the signed petitions that have been collected opposing the sale be included with the proposal.

Ed Burnham worked for the County in 1966 and installed the first translator. He explained the history of the equipment being used at the time and the need for updating to the new translator. He is against the purchase because the competition with Salt Lake stations needs to be there and is good.

Frank Brady said we have always had the FM translators and people are benefitted by having a choice to pick what they want to listen to. He is not against the local stations and appreciates that they are there, they have a purpose. The FM translators add a lot to the public in Carbon County. He doesn't feel that we would gain a lot by letting the AM stations take over the FM translators. They are simulcasting so you get the same station on AM as you do on FM. Their contour hasn't changed very much and they are looking for more coverage, particularly in Helper by upping the power. The County transmits 100 watts of TV down from Ford Ridge where the translator is to Price and no one in Helper can hear or see it. If they double their power they will have the same problem they have now.

This is an unprecedented thing taking place because there has not been an FM translator sold in the State of Utah. Frank showed comparable sales of translators in population, size and sale price he had pulled off of the internet. Commissioner Mellor asked Frank, how do the radio stations being the owners and operators of the licenses restrict the citizens? Frank said he can no longer get his oldies music. When the last change was made we lost two stations. We are taking away the choice of the people and it's unprecedented in the State of Utah.

Frank wanted to say that the FCC has opened up a window this next year that will allow the AM stations because they are suffering, to purchase existing FM stations and be able to move them within 250 miles. If these stations are sold to these AM stations they can move it to Vernal and feed it with internet, telephone or whatever they want and open up a whole new market. In 2017, they are opening a window where all of the AM stations can apply for a new license and instead of buying ours they could buy two of their own. We would still have our FM translators. Frank asked what the difference is between selling translators and the softball field or the fish pond. There are only two AM stations and they are the only ones who can purchase those. Frank is saying this is a County asset that has been there forever and enjoyed by the citizens of Carbon County. He doesn't see a reason to sell it. Commissioner Hopes said the government doesn't need to own and operate everything. Commissioner Potter asked how many translator licenses are owned by counties. Frank had no idea. Frank is against selling this asset.

Michelle Goldsmith said she is not a radio person, her concern is the lack of advertising and that the message is not getting out to the people. She has been on the Carbon County website and finds it very cumbersome to get information. She encourages the Commissioners to get their messages and agendas out to everybody. It is not posted in Helper City or the libraries.

Commissioner Mellor thanked everyone for commenting.

Commissioner Potter made a motion to move Agenda item #15, Harvey Howard, up to the next item because of the lengthy agenda and for Harvey's benefit. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

4) **Discussion and possible action on Carbon County Ordinance 472: AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE CREATION AND EXISTENCE OF THE CARBON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.**

Christian explained that the Commissioners have already passed a Resolution creating the Economic Development Agency. However, as the statute currently reads it should have been created by ordinance and not by resolution. There is a resolution on file establishing the agency in 2002 but it needs to be an ordinance. Christian said the State accepted the entity in 2002; we just want to make sure the entity exists and is lawful.

Commissioner Potter made a motion to approve Ordinance 472, ratifying the resolution that took place but creating it as an ordinance of the County. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

5) **ADJOURN as the Carbon County Board of Commissioners –CONVENE as the Carbon County Economic Development Agency**

Commissioner Potter made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Commissioners and convene as the Carbon County Economic Development Agency. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Potter clarified that the chair of the Carbon County Economic Development Agency has always been whoever the acting commission chair is at the time.

- A. Discussion and possible action on Agency Resolution EDA 2015-1: A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE PROPOSED PRICE RIVER TERMINAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA, AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION OF A DRAFT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA PLAN AND BUDGET, AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING ALL NECESSARY ACTION BY THE AGENCY, STAFF, AND COUNSEL.

Christian explained that this is the first step that is necessary to designate the proposed area for the project area and have Smith Hartvigsen law firm develop an area plan and budget as contemplated in the resolution.

Commissioner Potter asked Tami to comment as to why it is important for us to review this and that this is not a public hearing. A full plan and a public hearing will need to be brought forward. The area is located in the Wellington area outside the city limits and involves the properties at the Price River Terminal. There are a number of advantages as that area continues to develop in attracting big business. This is the first step that would allow us to designate that area. The County has other areas that are similar to this for redevelopment as well as both Wellington and Price.

Tami said for us to be able to get any incentives from the State they need to be put in a community development area. This is a way to help these businesses come to our community. Commissioner Potter said that the big reason is that State incentives are now available and into the future. As rural counties and rural areas we don't have the same kind of incentives that the Wasatch Front does. It is important for us to take advantage of all opportunities that come for our economic development.

Tami said the State is always asking the community to contribute but that doesn't have to be financial and can be assisting in other ways. They want to see that we want to bring in those jobs and businesses to help support our county.

Commissioner Potter said this resolution is very open and gives direction to follow the law as far as the organization of this area goes and bringing it back for public hearing and for a session with the other partners that will be affected by this area.

Christian said the public hearing will not take place until the draft area plan has been developed. This is what you need to do in order to set out on that path.

Seth said tentatively the public hearing would be held on January 20, 2016. The redevelopment areas that we have in the County were created at the same time as the agency back in 2001-2002. The current redevelopment area in Wellington also the one on Ridge Road, are set to expire at the end of 2016. Other redevelopment areas expired last year with the exception of the Holiday Inn Express area. As the communities want to extend this in order to provide benefits and new growth, it is the same process that all the cities and the county will have to go through. All of the economic development areas are done under the auspice of this community development agency. It's not just for the County; it's a tool that will be available for each of the cities if they go through the process. Once the plan and budget are done, each individual taxing entity will have to bring it back on their agendas and be able to agree to the terms. Depending on where the area is, each city council would have to adopt it as well as the County, PRWID, Water Conservancy District and the School District in order to opt in or opt out of the area as it has been done in the past.

Commissioner Potter made a motion to adopt this resolution so that we can move forward in the process and be prepared as a county and for the cities to follow suit. Commissioner Hopes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- B. ADJOURN as the Carbon County Economic Development Agency – RECONVENE as the Carbon County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Hopes made a motion to adjourn as the Carbon County Economic Development Agency and reconvene as the Carbon County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

**6) Recommendations from Carbon County Tourism Tax Advisory Board – Shalee Johansen**

Shalee said the board met on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 to review the applicants for funding for 2016. They had a lengthy discussion and have recommendations. There were ten applicants this year.

Commissioner Mellor asked about the difference between the amounts being requested versus the amounts recommended. Shalee said that a couple of groups including the Western Mining and Railroad Museum and the Helper Arts and Music Festival are being recommended to receive more than they asked for. The Western Mining and Railroad Museum asked for \$1,200 for signage on their building. This was something that the board felt would be long lasting and was a reasonable amount. The Museum is a very strong economic indicator of true tourism, which means we see more tourists come through than locals. They felt that this would be a good opportunity to look at not only funding the signage but also to carry over the model train funding (\$1,050) from last year due to the efforts of volunteers to get the train to work but are still having problems. Because of the volunteer hours, the importance of the display and the interest, she feels that the \$1,050 should carry over and be included in the 2016 budget. With the brick and mortar improvements, Shalee felt that more advertising was needed so a small amount was added in to attract more people to the model train display. This would create additional tourism to justify the funds. The recommended funding is \$4,250.

The Helper Arts and Music Festival asked for \$20,000 and the board granted \$7,000 which is an increase from last year and has placed requirements and conditions upon that funding.

Commissioner Potter said he thinks it's important that we emphasize that these are recommendations from this board to the Commission in regards to the budget and monies that fund these programs. This is less than what was anticipated but there are needs and uses for these funds.

Christian said no motion is needed and this can be handled during the budget hearing later on in the meeting.

Commissioner Hopes made note that one of the applicants from the Black Diamond Rodeo is Bob Hopes, his father. Commissioner Hopes will be abstaining from voting on that item.

#### **7) Appointment of members to various County Boards and Committees.**

**The Board of Adjustments** – there are four vacancies and two applications were received from Cheryl Lupo and Norm Hansen. Commissioner Potter made a motion to appoint Cheryl and Norm as two of those four vacancies. These two applications came in during the second advertisement. Christian said this should not be appointed until the second advertising date is closed. Commissioner Potter withdrew his motion. Dave Levanger said it is important to get this board running so that the new development code revisions can be approved. They have already lost one request for variance. They had to allow it because they could not deal with the application in a timely manner. The closing date to receive applications is the end of December.

Sandy explained which boards were in the first advertising notice and which were in the second notice.

**Career Service Council** – there is one vacancy and one application was received during the first advertisement. Commissioner Hopes made a motion to have Stacey Jones appointed to this board. Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

**Carbon Water Conservancy District** – one application was received from Roger Koss during the second advertising and will be held till after the December 31 advertising deadline.

**Planning Commission** – There are two vacancies and five applications were received from Rick Shaw, Don Torgerson, Lynna Topolovec, Richard Tatton and Mike Bryant. Commissioner Potter said the two vacancies that are up at this time are Don Torgerson and Richard Tatton. We have received great applications from very qualified people. Commissioner Mellor currently sits on this board and has spoken to both Don and Richard who have expressed interest to serve again.

Commissioner Potter motioned to reappoint Don Torgerson and Richard Tatton to this board. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

**Scofield Special Service District, Camp Site area** - No applications were received.

**Sheriff Merit Board** – there are two vacancies and one application has been received. Commissioner Hopes made a motion to accept Scott Young's application and appoint him to this board and wait for a second applicant. Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

**Tourism Tax Advisory Board** – there are nine vacancies and eight applications have been received. Commissioner Potter said that state law requires that this be a board of at least five. According to 17-31-A, Section 3A the majority of this board should come from the entities that are subject to this tax, meaning the

owners of restaurants and hotels. We are currently out of balance. Those applying are: Athena Robison, Rick Shaw, Nick Tatton, Tina Henrie, Jim Boyd, Dan Allen, Jennifer Jensen and Rhonda Peterson. Of these, two are from industry. If we are going to be in compliance with statute, we need three from the industry and two from outside. With these applications we have two from industry and six from outside. All of these applicants have been on the board before.

Commissioner Potter made a motion to appoint Athena Robinson and Tina Henrie who are from the industry. One more application is needed from industry and then two others from the applications received can be appointed for a total of five. If additional applications are received from industry then the number on the board can be increased to nine. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

**Weed Board** – There are four vacancies and no applications were received.

Sandy asked for clarification on which boards are needed to be brought back. Commissioner Potter said we would bring back the two openings from the Board of Adjustment, the Carbon Water Conservancy District, Scofield SSD, Sheriff Merit Board, Tourism Tax Advisory Board and the Weed Board.

**8) Review and possible approval for the 2016 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant – Whitney Waterfall**

Whitney presented the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Fund Grant application. This grant helps sustain our local emergency planning meetings. These meetings are a combination of governmental agencies, private sector, hospital and others, and train personnel in the event of a big emergency in our County. This grant is for \$3,400. It is an 80/20 grant and our portion is approximately \$690.00. The match can be in kind.

Commissioner Hopes made a motion to approve this application for the HMEP Grant, Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

**9) Review and possible approval of a recommendation from the Planning Commission for an amendment to Westwood Estates No. 4, Lots 17, 18, 19, and 20 for Robert Torgerson.**

Dave Levanger said Robert Torgerson is adding land to certain subdivision lots all the way back to the canal in the Westwood Subdivision. This allows for an easement to access the canal along lots 17, 18, 19, and 20. He has a petition signed by all of the lot owners. Christian said this is technically an amendment to the subdivision, it doesn't require a public hearing where all of the property owners have signed off.

Commissioner Potter made a motion to approve the lot changes on lots 17, 18, 19, and 20 in Westwood Subdivision. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

**10) Public Hearing to consider and possibly approve a recommendation from the Planning Commission for a change to the Zoning District Map on Parcel 02-1831-0000 located approximately 4700 S. Central Miller Creek Rd. (500 W. 600 S., Wellington) from RR-1 to R-1-20K for Kevin Callahan.**

Dave said this is a parcel that lies with frontage on Central Miller Creek Rd. just south of the Wellington City limits. Mr. Callahan intends to split the land into two lots, the size of the parcel is approximately 3 and 1/3 acre and each lot will be over an acre and a half. The Planning Commission gave it a favorable recommendation and they have prepared a draft ordinance.

Commissioner Hopes asked how wide the lots are. They are 150 feet wide and 230 feet long. The back half of the lots are in a flood plain so they are unusable and drop into the river. The usable area is more rectangular in shape.

Commissioner Mellor opened the public hearing at 6:07 p.m.  
Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed at 6:08 p.m.

Commissioner Hopes made a motion to approve the zoning change from RR-1 to R-1-20K. Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

**11) Consideration and possible approval of Ordinance No. 473, implementing the transportation tax authorized by HB 362, 2015 General Session, and approved by voters on the November 2015 ballot as Proposition 1.**



Christian said that we need an ordinance in order to implement Proposition 1, the transportation tax. This ordinance has been prepared and will become effective during the second quarter of 2016.

Commissioner Potter asked for election numbers for the totals received on the ballots. Seth said approximately 57% of voters were in favor and 42.5% were against. The election went well. The only precincts that were not in favor were the more rural areas; the urban areas were very much in favor of Proposition 1.

Commissioner Potter made a motion to approve Ordinance 473 for the Transportation Tax. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

**12) Public Hearing on the 2016 County Budget and to Open and Adjust 2015 County Budget for all funds – Seth Oveson**

Seth reviewed the adjustment made for the 2015 budget year.

Commissioner Mellor opened the public hearing for the 2015 Adjusted Budget at 6:17 p.m.  
Seeing no comment, the public hearing was closed at 6:18 p.m.

Seth projected the 2016 budget on the screen. A graph was used to explain the revenue and operating expenditures.

Commissioner Potter said a balanced budget is passed every year based on projected revenue and projected budget items from the various departments. We have control of the expense side and limited control on the revenues. Property tax is the only item that remains about the same. Of the total property tax collected a large percentage goes to the school district and the cities. What the County receives is based on a levy that is approved every year. We have been blessed with mineral monies. There have been decreases in coal but there are still years of opportunity, we should be diversifying. The good news is that there are projects that should come to fruition in 2016 that should help the coal industry. The drilling on the Tavaputs Plateau for natural gas is a good indicator of continued activity. Commissioner Potter is very optimistic. It is critical that we do all we can to express a positive side to what coal means to our area. The Special Service District has been wonderful to work with over the years on many projects for funding received through the Federal mineral program.

Seth explained that the graph is showing personal and real property, delinquent collections and everything that is property tax. They were combined because a year ago the State made a big change from the different levies. It was changed from a State assessing collecting levy to a County assessing collecting levy. In order to have consistency across time you have to put what was property taxed together. There is a good spread of funding sources but for 2016 the amount of money available for the Recreation & Transportation Special Service District has decreased substantially from where it was in prior years and that will pose a challenge for the County in the future.

Seth reviewed the budget for 2016. (A copy is attached to the minutes.)

Commissioner Mellor opened the Public Hearing at 6:46 p.m.  
Seeing no the response the Public Hearing was closed at 6:48 p.m.

**13) Adoption of 2015 Amended Budget – Seth Oveson**

Commissioner Hopes made a motion to adopt the 2015 amended budget. Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

**14) Adoption of 2016 County Budget for all funds – Seth Oveson**

Commissioner Hopes made a motion to adopt the 2016 budget. Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

**15) Discussion concerning tourism – Harvey Howard, Desert Thunder Raceway**

(This agenda item was moved up and heard after Agenda item #3.)

Harvey said he has been a part of the Desert Thunder Raceway since 1991. Desert Thunder was the only race track operating for years. Vernal and Delta have since built new race track facilities that are county owned. When they saw the revenue created their Commission was willing to spend thousands of dollars on new facilities.

The five or six people who are promoting and running races for other counties, show up the afternoon of the race, they do not have to pay for ambulances, fire or wreck crews, prepping the track, mortgages, taxes, clean up or for toilets. As a private business owner, Mr. Howard does have to pay for these things. Over the last few years, it's becoming extremely hard to do so and still offer a high quality track and prize money for a professional type race. Mr. Howard said they are the top raceway in the western United States as far as notoriety and cost. They offer low entry and spectator fees. The reason for this is because he has been able to supplement the raceway with his regular job. That money has now come to a halt; he no longer has that income. His property tax went up, from \$800 to \$3,900.

He is at this meeting because the raceway adds approximately \$400,000 to \$500,000 a year to the local economy. He does not want to lose the track. He may have to take out a loan to pay the taxes. He is asking if there is a way to relieve the tax burden to what was paid last year and then increase it next year. Or would the County be interested in purchasing the racetrack. Valuation on the property right now is \$350,000. He is looking for help to keep the raceway open.

Commissioner Potter asked if he had talked to the Treasurer's Office and did he go through the Board of Equalization process. Harvey said he had and the tax was reduced. Commissioner Potter doesn't feel like they should overrule that decision.

Commissioner Potter explained that revenues are way down and this is not a budget item for this year. Harvey said the raceway is a benefit to the County and hopes that the Commissioners see it that way. If there is something that can be worked out together to keep the track open, this is the time because events are being scheduled and he doesn't have the funding to operate.

Commissioner Mellor asked him to continue to work with the Office of Tourism. Harvey said they have been in contact and that they work well together.

**16) Discussion concerning changing precinct and polling places – Seth Oveson**

Seth said in gearing up for the 2016 Presidential election cycle both parties have approached Seth with precinct issues. There are a limited amount of things that can be done in a non-census year. You can't combine any precincts that would disturb any of the district boundaries, like school districts. Precincts can't be combined if they cross city boundaries. The suggestions made were to combine precincts 16 (Indian Hills) and 18 (South Price). They are very close to each other, they are both within city limits and both are within the same school board seats. Combining them would create one precinct with a total of 673 voters, currently one has 202 and the other has 471 voters. You are allowed to have up to 1200 voters per precinct.

Commissioner Potter asked where polling places would be. Seth said all of Price City's polling places are at the School District offices. It wouldn't change their polling place; just combine the two into one, eliminating a ballot style.

Similarly East Carbon has three precincts, 20 (195 voters), 25 (320 voters) and 26 (354 voters) needing three different ballot styles. Seth proposes combining all three precincts into one for all of the East Carbon area. East Carbon City requested changing their polling place from the Senior Center to City Hall. City Hall has ADA access in the back and it is where they hold early voting.

In Wellington City, there are two precincts 15 (387 voters) and 19 (372 voters). It is proposed to combine these to one precinct with 759 voters. This would make it similar in size to the other precincts in the County.

Another suggestion is to have a vote center. A vote center is similar to early voting where anyone can go to that vote center and vote on Election Day. It will ease some of the trouble on Election Day for people who do not know where they go to vote. It is suggested turning the Fairgrounds polling place into a vote center allowing people from Helper or East Carbon to vote there.

Seth said we would have to supply that vote center with all of the ballot styles and have more machines and staff. Another change would be to drop the Country Club as a polling place and have Spring Glen voters vote in Helper or at the vote center at the Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Hopes asked about what kind of notification would have to be sent out to those areas affected. Seth said after it is passed by the Commission it would be advertised. Changes are always difficult for the voter. Most of the changes are minimal and are administrative. The Spring Glen voters would be the most impacted.



Early voting and Vote-by-Mail would still be an option. Changes have to be completed before the next election cycle which begins on January 4, 2016.

Christian said the changes can be approved tonight even though the agenda says this is a discussion.

Commissioner Mellor asked Kendra Seeley, the County Republican party chair, if she had any thoughts or questions.

Kendra said she likes the proposed changes. Her suggestion is that this be reviewed every year and to combine more precincts if possible.

Commissioner Potter made a motion to accept the changes presented by the Clerk/Auditors office for precinct changes and polling places including making the Fairgrounds a vote center on Election Day. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

**17) Adopt Annual Commission Meeting Schedule for 2016 (Ordinance 474)**

Commissioner Potter made a motion to approve the 2016 Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

**18) Rotate Commission Chair Position to Commissioner Jae Potter to begin January 1, 2016**

Commissioner Hopes made a motion to rotate the commission chair to Commissioner Potter beginning January 1, 2016. Commissioner Mellor stepped down and seconded. Motion carried.

**19) Review and Approval of Departmental Reports**

Commissioner Potter made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Seth Oveson, County Clerk/Auditor

  
  
Jake Mellor, Chairman

